

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**  
**Continuation of U.S. Appln. No. 08/726,170**

measured values due to difference in color of respective liquid samples can be resolved.

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

**Please cancel claims 1-10 without prejudice or disclaimer.**

**Please add the following new claims:**

11. (new) A test apparatus for assaying a component in a liquid sample by measuring a reflected light, comprising:

a support defining an upper side and a lower side and having one of a through hole and a light permeable area,

a reagent layer defining an upper side and a lower side and having a detecting area, the reagent layer being fixed on the upper side of the support to cover one of the through hole and light permeable area, and

a cover including a lower side facing the reagent layer and which covers at least the detecting area,

wherein at least a portion of said cover covering the detecting area is of a color which one of reflects an amount of light at a measured wavelength, and fully absorbs light at a measured wavelength, such that said color has substantially no influence on the reflected light at the measured wavelength;

wherein said color is black; and

wherein said reflected light is measured from the lower side of both the reagent layer and the cover.

12. (New) The test apparatus as claimed in claim 11, wherein said cover is fixed on the support in such a manner that a gap exists between the cover and the reagent